

Population & Society
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Lecture No. # 36
Differences in Perception between Developed & Developing Countries

Today, we are going to talk again about environmental issues. In the previous lecture, I made a difference between sociology of environment and environmental sociology, by saying that in sociology of environment. Environment is that dependent variable, and sociology or social structure is the independent variable. So, sociology of environment looks at a relationship between structural or biographic factors on the one hand as independent or causal variables. Environmental degradation, climates change, environmental consciousness, ecological believes, etcetera as dependent variable. In environmental sociology, the relationship it just reverse of that; in environmental sociology, socially structure, social consciousness, one term super ego is the dependent variable; and geographical environmental, ecological variables are independent variables.

I also mentioned about two demographers, who are also sociologists like Kingsley Davis and Nathan Keyfitz, showed the connection between populations, variables, and **develop** development and environmental variables. How it is important now to look at, the relationship between population and environment; why is it important to talk about environmental issues, sustainable development.

And today, I will talk about Differences in Perception, regarding environmental issues between Developed and Developing Countries, which has become a major bone of contention in the recent past. Why do developed and developing countries have different approaches, visions, the strategies and compulsions to deal with environmental issues; the issue of climate change that is the subject matter of today's discussion.

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Now, it is obvious, all those who have read anything about Kyoto Protocol, know that there are serious differences, in perception of sustainable development between developed and developing countries. Developed countries mostly led by United States, and developing countries led mostly by India and china, there is US policy, there is another policy advocated by India and china.

Other countries are in between mostly developed countries, are European countries are mostly with United States. And Latin American, African countries are mostly supporting, Indian and Chinese position and development and environment.

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Why is the difference, now when it comes to perception of developed countries, you find certain common elements in perception of United States, Europe, Japan, other developed countries, which are high in income industrialization, urbanization. The first thing is that for them, environmental problems are the most serious issues facing mankind.

So, if all the issues, this is not the all the issue, they are so many issues of concern, a population issues, social conflicts, anomy, violence, terrorism, trafficking of women and children, in equality, migration there are so many issues. But from the perspective of developed countries, when it comes to development; then environmental problems are seen, as the most serious issues facing not only developed countries, but the whole mankind.

Global, there is a global risk of water, air, and noise pollution, this risk is global, it is not confined to any particular country, it is not confined to US or to Denmark or New Zealand it is global. Risk of water, air and noise pollution are global risk, we have witness acid rains, the result of unsustainable development or a access of industrialization, mechanization, manufacturing. Even in countries, contributing least to environmental damage.

There are countries, which are not so high in industrialization, which have plenty of forest, which are trying to promote organic farming, and agro based economy. But is still they are suffering from acid rains, due to environmental pollution caused by neighboring

countries. So, **the** in that sense the risk of an environmental pollution or climate change are global, they are no more confined, only to those countries, which are creating environmental problems. Environmental problems are the most serious of all the problems facing mankind, and they are of global nature.

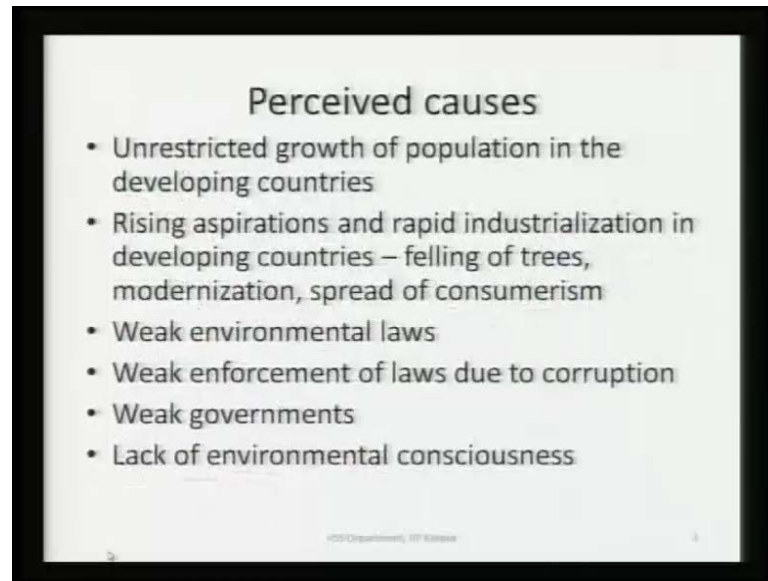
That means, from their prospective even if environmental problems are created in a freak, it should be every body's concern, it should be concern of US, it should be concern of Latin America, it should be of concern to India. And these environmental problems, are now affecting growth of industry and agricultural worldwide; because they are destructive of environment, nature, they have polluted rivers, they have polluted air.

Therefore, even agricultural production worldwide is affected by the climate change, this is leading to climate change, it studies have shown that during last 100 years or so. The world temperature has been rising, and there is a real danger that. If the world temperature rises further by 2 degree, this will be highly destructive of populations living, in the coastal areas, and may be some small island countries; they live in summers in the ocean, so the danger is real.

This environmental destruction or climate change is also leading to displacement of people from one part of the country to another, and from one country to other countries. And in that sense is the cause of human tragedy, this human tragedy also arises, because due to population pressure, people have started living in those areas, which were unlivable for a long period of time.

So, when there is a population surplus, people have a tendency to fall for as, to live in the coastal areas, to live in hilly areas, **and to** and along with modernization, desired to the modern amenities and construct houses of the modern type, everywhere they live. They create buildings, infrastructure, roads, basically those situations where, it is not sustainable to construct those types of buildings or roads or infrastructure or establish industry, so that is adding to our problems of living.

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The causes are unrestricted growth of population in the developing countries, I am not saying from my side that behind environmental problem from population factor is the biggest factor. I am just saying that from the perspective of developed countries, this is the case or what the developed countries want us to believe in, is that environmental problems are global serious, causing human tragedies, displacement. And one of the most important causes of this is unrestricted growth of population, in the developing countries.

Developed countries are not having, we have seen the data, the development countries are not having significant population growth, and some of them are even having negative growth. Then raising aspirations, a few months ago there was a big debate on whether, Asians are eating more, Indians are eating more, because some thought leader in United States made a comment, that many problems of the world are caused, because Indians have started eating more.

So, from their perspective there is raising aspirations and rapid industrialization in developing countries. If the developing countries, are willing to live at the same level of development, at which they have been living for 1000s of years, then there will be no or there will be very little of environmental destruction. Now, this rapid population growth, raising aspirations and industrialization, in developing countries are leading to felling of trees, modernization, and more requirement of energy and spread of consumerism. Also

in the developing countries, environmental laws either they do not exist or they are very weakly on force; as such most of the developing countries are corrupt, lack transparency, governance and are (O). And when it comes to environmental laws particularly, then nobody bothers, neither government bothers and nor people, corruption, under hand dealings, lobbies of industrialists, lobbies of business men. I am sure that, in the developing countries interest of the business houses are maintained, interest of business houses are protected, irrespective of their consequence for the environment.

So, their weak enforcement of laws, due to corruption, governments are weak and there is generally a lack of environmental consciousness, people at people also do not have that environmental consciousness, because of this or with (O), they can force the state or industries.

We are talking about developing countries over here or developed countries

From the am talking about, the perspective of the developed countries.

What they think about developing

What they think

So, but these characteristics are very much found in the developed countries as well. So, are they over looking their own, what they have?

Actually from our perspective, developed countries want to place blame for environmental or climatic change, on processes in the developing countries.

Though they may be the

Though as we will see later, that they are the major polluters they are the major polluters, but they would like the world to believe, that the responsibility for

All the degradation is due

Preventing further degradation lies with less developed countries. To some extent, this is also true that these characteristics weak environment laws, corruption, weak governments, lack of environmental consciousness

Are very

They particularly applied to developing country; this is true, that an average citizen of Germany is much more conscious of environment than an every citizen of India, that is a fact. And as the report of transparency international shows, India is one of the most corrupt countries of the world that is also true. Let us not go exactly by numbers, whether India's position on corruption scale should be this or that, but the fact remains that India is one of the most corrupt countries.

Sir, I would like to not argue, but comment over here, corruption caught is corruption, where they like if they cannot point out the corruption in some countries. So, they will not count them as corrupt, but since in India it is, so much visible. So, they number it as one of the most corrupt nations, though it may not be (O).

So, yeah these are the issues all which we cannot definitely talk in terms of objective indicators.

Yes

But, if you read the methodology developed by transparency international, they have used quite an objective method for arriving at a scores of corruption, and various dimensions of corruption, based on quite well standardizes methodologies from both the statistical point of view, and also from the point of view of reliability of data.

This seems to the a fact

It does not sound good to the ears (O)

Its bad to hear for people like us or intellectuals of developing countries, it hurts our sentiment, but this is a fact; this is a fact that in that some of the developing countries are also some of the most corrupt countries.

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Now, the perception of developing countries, how do developing countries perceive about this, developing countries want to catch up with the developed countries, for them environmental issues, population issues or other issues are secondary. The most important issue, the most important value, the most important goal for developing countries is to catch up with the developed countries; and there is no ideological or political or party conflict over this.

Whether, in our country like whether BJP or congress anybody comes to power any party, they would like to fix a higher goal, growth of income per capita for the country, development first. Because, from our perspective **we are** we are so poor, and also there is no justification, why should we not catch up with the western countries, why should we not there is no satisfactory.

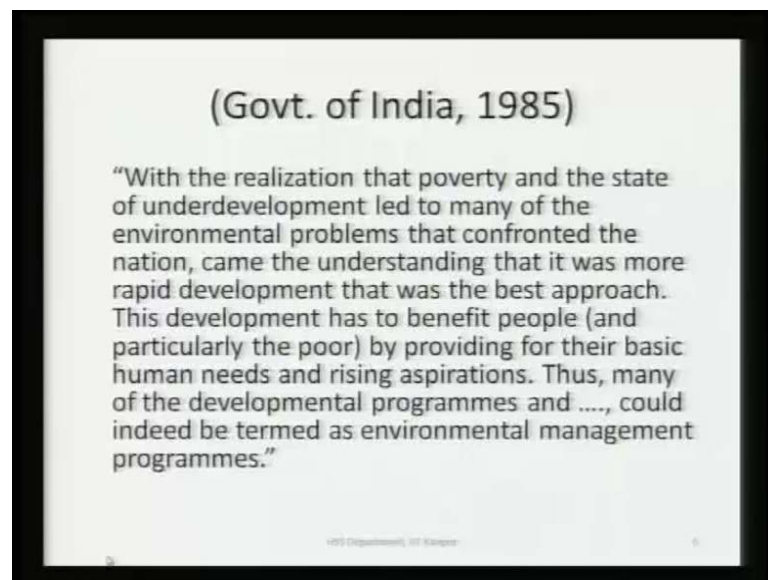
Answer to the question, why should we not be as developed, as people in the developed countries, why should we not have air conditioner, why should we not have the latest technology in computing, why should we not have atom bombs, and nuclear bombs, why should we not have malls or why should we not fly by dust of aircraft. So, there is no for developing countries, the catching up with the western countries, catching up with the developed countries is of the top most important.

They **too have** right to have a high standard of living as in the West, all political leaders will say Samajwadi Party, BJP, congress all leaders will say. The very talk of

environmental problems is essentially from their perspective, and instrument of debarring them, means debarring developing countries from raising their standard of living, to the levels of developed countries.

They say, developing countries say that, these developed countries are talking of environmental problems, and putting the environmental question in such a manner, that they want to debar us from the benefits of latest technology, and latest development. Developing countries like India feel, that for them poverty rather than over development, is the cause of environmental problems, and in all less developed countries more or less, this is the situation and this is the position.

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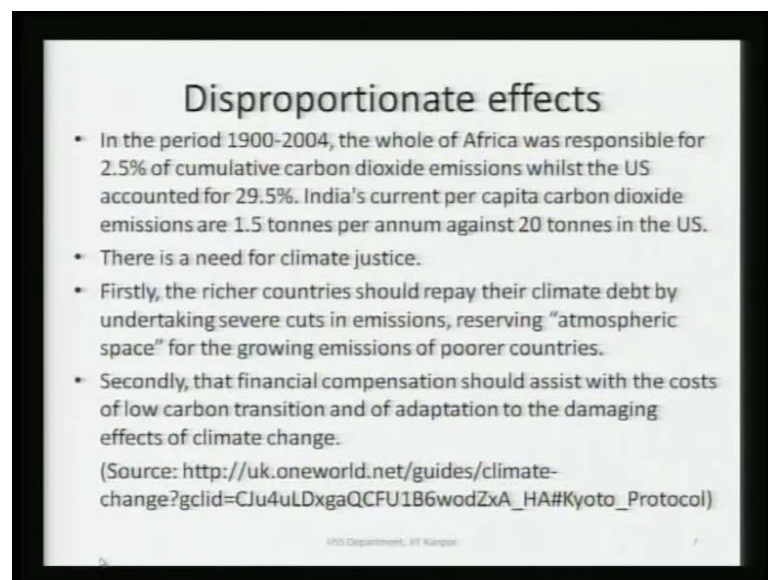
I am quoting from a 5 year plan draft 1985, Government of India, that with the realization that poverty and the state of underdevelopment, led to many of the environmental problems, that confronted the nation came the understanding, that it was more rapid development that was the best approach. That if you want to counter environmental problems in our country, then we have to develop fast, with this is just reverse of what, the developed countries are saying.

From the perspective of development from the perspective of development of the developed countries, there is a need to (O) regarding setting up goals regarding per capita income. From the perspective of developing countries like India, poverty is the biggest cause of environmental problems in our country. In order to counter the environmental

problems in our country, rapid development is the answer; further this development has to benefit people, and particularly the poor by providing for their basic human needs, and rising aspirations. Thus many of the developmental programs, could indeed be termed as environmental management programs, this is the difference.

So, for us developmental programs are the environmental management programs, for developed countries there are a need to draw a line on development processes. From the perspective of developing countries, more development, further development, rapid development and poverty removal, would protect.

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As far as the reality is concerned, in the period 1900 to 2004 in, 104 years period, the whole of Africa was responsible for 2.5 percent of cumulative carbon dioxide emissions, while the US accounted for 20.5 percent. So, what you said is correct, that if you look at the statistics of carbon emission or other indicators of environmental degradation, then the biggest polluters are developed countries themselves.

India's current per capita carbon dioxide emissions are 1.5 tons per annum, against 20 tons in the United States that means, if you really have a global perspective, then the internationals in the field of environment, must be made first in the United States. Where in per capita terms, they are producing emission of 20 terms, in our country emissions are only 1.5 tons.

Now, other factors remaining same if our income doubles, and all other factors remain same, if our population doubles or suppose both population and development doubles. So, per capita income would be 1.5 into 4 6, even then it will be less than one third or what is happening in the United States today.

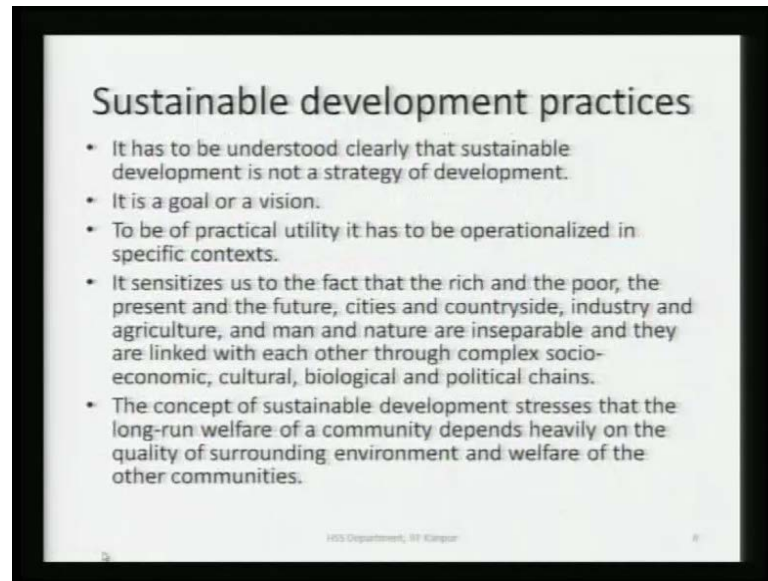
But, United States is saying, that for the global interests of the world for environmental interest of the world for the climate change, developmental activities in less developed countries must be restrained. Because, they cannot think of going back, it is not possible for United States to think in terms of reducing their per capita income, there is actually a need for climate justice.

Firstly, the richer countries should repay their climate debt by undertaking severe cuts in the emissions, reserving atmosphere space for the growing emissions of poorer countries; from justice point of view, if you compare situation in developed and developing countries, an objective. If you take an objective, dispartisan view of the situation, and not identify with interest of any one, developed or developing countries. The justice would demand, that the developed countries should reduce their economic standards, and the less developed countries should be allowed to pollute, may be for some more time.

So, that **once** both of them reach some kind of parity, in development in technologically standards, then you can blame both of them equally or you can give your lectures on environment with equal effectiveness to both. Secondly, that financial compensation should assist both, with a cause of low carbon transition, and of adaptation to the damaging effects of climate change.

That means, if you want developing countries to reduce their damaging effect, then they **they** require better technology, and they require certain kinds of structural shifts in economy, which will require money, but less developed countries do not have money for that. So, the developed countries must provide financial compensation, and financial help to developing countries to go for latest technology, which is environment saving.

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It has to be understood clearly that sustainable development is however, not the strategy of development, it is a goal or a vision; to be or practical utility it has to be operationalized in a specific contacts, and the contacts are different. It sensitizes us to the fact that the rich and the poor, the present and the futures citizen country side, industry and agriculture, and man and nature, are inseparable.

And they are linked with each other through complex, socio economic, cultural, biological and political chains. And the concept of sustainable development is stresses that the long run welfare of a community depends heavily, on the quality of surrounding environment, and welfare of the other communities, you cannot live your life in isolation today.

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Strategies

Now the issue is: what are all the strategies possible if a country wants to go for sustainable development? The World Bank (1992) suggested a threefold strategy for meeting the challenge of sustainable development. They are:

- I. Build on the positive links. Growth of income promotes efficient use of resources, technology transfer, market and investment in environment improvement. Poverty removal reduces population growth and provides resources and knowledge to enable the poor to take a long range view of development.
- II. Break the negative links. Incentives, environment policies and institutions building are necessary to guarantee sustainability. Mere improvement in income and capacity to solve environment problems are not sufficient.
- III. Clarify and manage the uncertain links. Knowledge generation is important to know new relationship between man and environment and effective management of resources.

The above description of strategies is useful but is abstract. It has to be operationalized in terms of indicators and processes.

1992 Department, UN

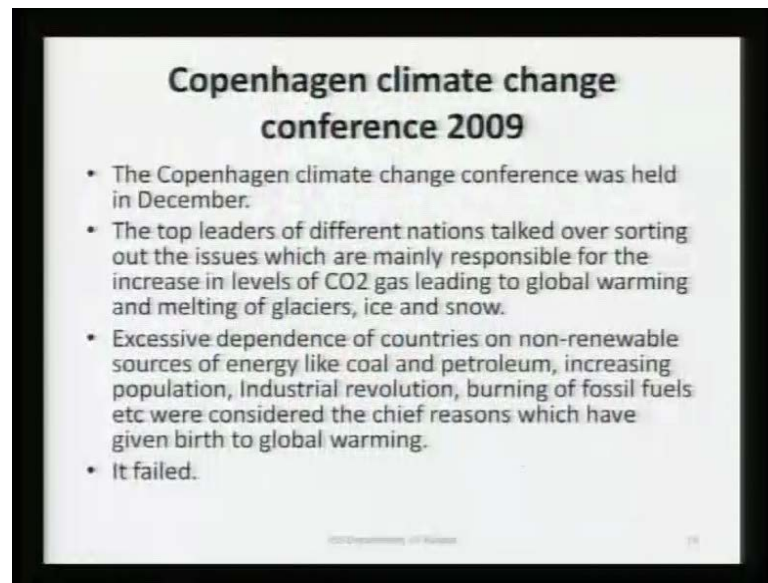
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So, for sustainable development everybody is equally responsible that is true, but before you make everybody equally responsible, you have to bring everybody at the same level. If everybody is not at par in socioeconomic, technological, and educational its standards, how can you blame the poor people more, this is what the developed countries are doing.

So, the issue is what are all the strategies possible, if a country wants go for sustainable development; world bank suggests a threefold strategy for meeting, the challenges of sustainable development. And they are, build on positive links, which means that growth of income promotes efficient use of resources, technology, transfer, market and investment, in environmental improvement.

Poverty removal, reduces population growth and provides resources, and knowledge to enable the poor to take a long run view of development; poor people cannot take a long run view of development, they cannot afford.

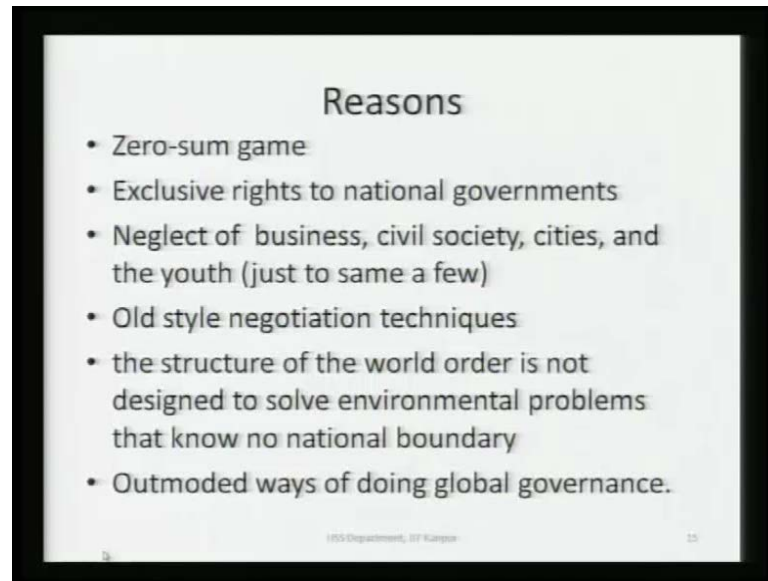
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So, you have heard about this Copenhagen climate change conference 2009, people say that it failed, it was held in December, and the top leaders of different nations, talked about sorting out the issues, which were mainly responsible for the increase in level of CO₂ gas, leading to global warming, and melting of glaciers, ice and snow. There was an agreement efforts should be made. So, that the global temperature does not raise beyond 2 percent **sorry**, 2 degree.

Excessive dependence of countries on non renewable resources of energy, like coal and petroleum, increase in population, industrial revolution, burning of fossil fuels etcetera, were considered, the chief reasons, which have given birth to global warming, and it failed.

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The reasons, **the** all the reasons that you find in literature, in media, **why the** why this failed are zero-sum game, between developed and developing countries, it has become a zero-sum game and both of them think that, games of others are losses of theirs. So, if developed countries are asked to maintain restraint, then developing countries are permitted to **(())** more, they can grow more, they can grow for a higher rate of growth of income.

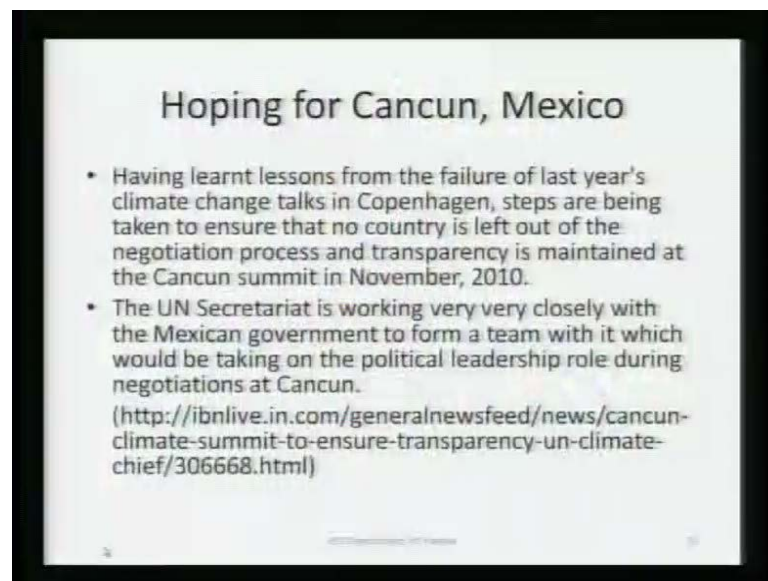
If the less developed countries are restrained, then their freedom to go for higher rate of growth of income is **(())**, then the developed countries can maintain their present day standards. So, there is a zero sum game, gain of one loss of another. Second thing, some people say, this Copenhagen gave exclusive rights to decide about environmental matters, to national government and national governments obviously, in liberal democracies, with their own banks in mind will maintain the interest of the nations first.

The issue is global; right in the beginning we saw that, the environmental issues are global everybody recognizes that, the issues are global. But once you give exclusive rights to national governments, and they are not able to go beyond the political interest of the nation, in the zero-sum game perspective they are not able to come up with decisions, **which they can** which they are happy with to take and which they can readily enforce.

There was a neglect of business, civil society, cities and the youth, just to name a few, then old styles never says in techniques, there should have been much more diplomacy,

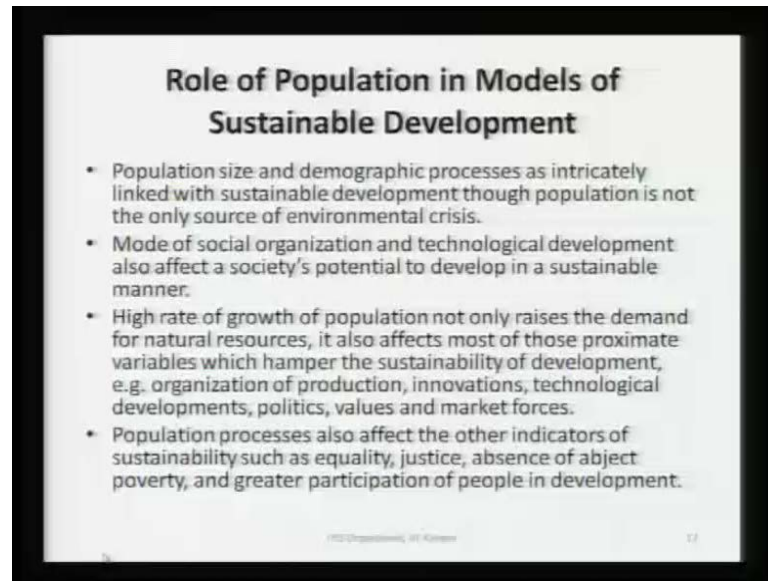
much more home work, involvement of environmental networks, civil society, media, some better solution could have come, but this did not happen. The structure of the word order is not designed to solve environmental problems, **that no** that no national boundary; environmental problems have no national boundary, but political interest have national boundaries. And there are outmoded ways of doing global governance, **you know** Levi some changes required in the composition, and structure of united nations or international organizations of that time.

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Now, we are hoping that something in November this year, the governments are again meeting to talk about Copenhagen failure, and develop a new process for climate change soon, in November 2010. The UN secretariat is working as very **very** closely with the Mexican government to form a team with it, **which would be talking** which would be taking on the political leadership role, during negotiations at can; this is the situation, difference in perspectives between developed and developing countries.

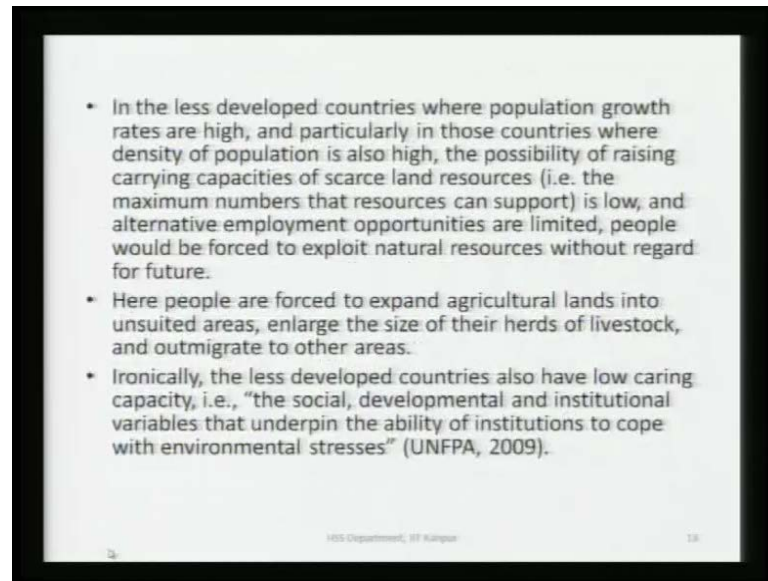
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Now, let us talk a little bit about population and sustainable development, because this finally, this course is on population. So, population size and demographic processes are integrated with the sustainable development, though population is not the only source of environmental crisis, that we will look at. There is technology, there is social structure, there is culture, there are aspirations, and there are political institutions, movements, social movements, new social movements, all those things affect environmental consciousness, environmental beliefs and environmental action.

But, population size is one of the important factors, high rate of growth of population not only raises the demand for natural resources, it also affects most of those proximate variables, which hamper the sustainability of development, for example, organization of production, innovations, technological developments, politics, values and market forces. Population processes also affect the other indicators of sustainability, such as equality, justice, absence of abject poverty, and greater participation of people in development.

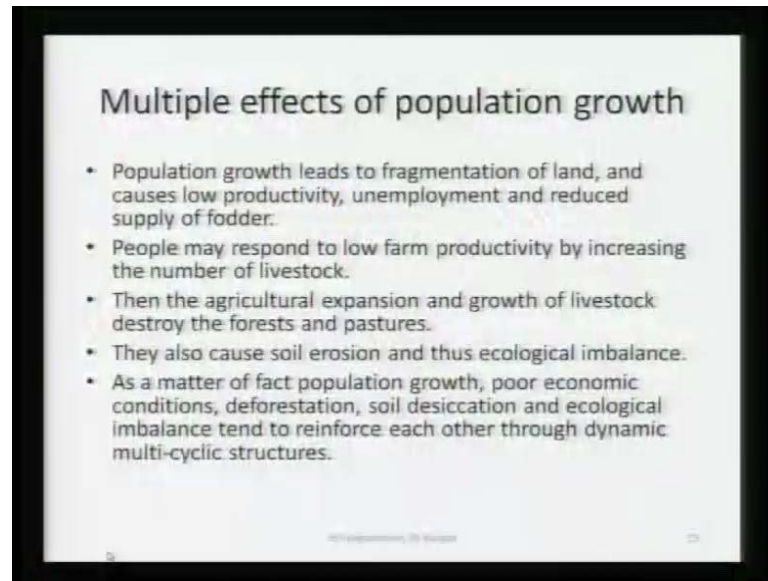
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In the less developed countries, where population growth rates are high and particularly in those countries where density of population is also high. The possibility of rising carrying capacities of the scarce land sources is low, and the alternative employment opportunities are limited. People would be forced to exploit natural resources, without regard for future, in the tribal areas we can see this very clearly.

Here, people are forced to expand agricultural lands, in to unsuited areas and large the size of their hearts of live is stopped, and out migrates to other areas quite often causing the problem of what we commonly call, the problem of commons. Ironically the less developed countries also have low carrying capacity, that is the social developmental and institutional variables that end up in the ability of institutions to cope with environmental stresses.

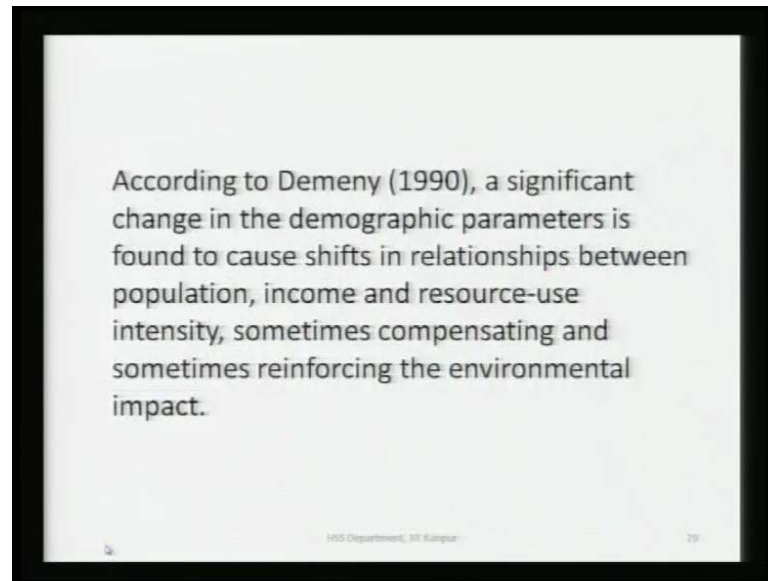
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There are multiple effects of population growth however, population growth leads to fragmentation of land, causes low productivity, unemployment and reduce supply of order. People may respond to low farm productivity by increasing the number of livestock, then the agricultural expansion, and growth of livestock destroy the forest and pastures.

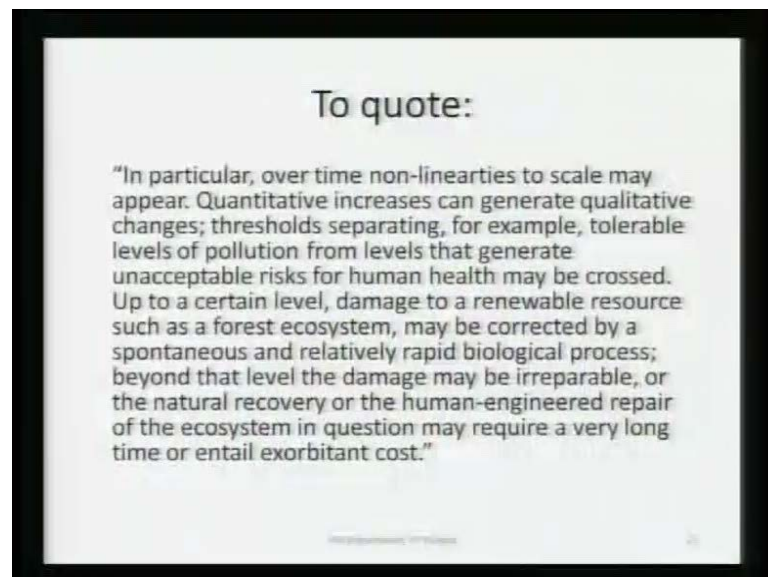
They also cause soil erosion and thus ecological imbalance. As a better fact population growth, poor economic condition, deforestation, soil desiccation and ecological imbalance tend to reinforce each other through dynamic multi-cyclic structures.

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According to Demeny, Poul Demeny, a significant change in the demographic parameters is found to cause shifts in relationships between population, income and resource-used intensity, sometimes compensating and sometimes reinforcing the environmental impact.

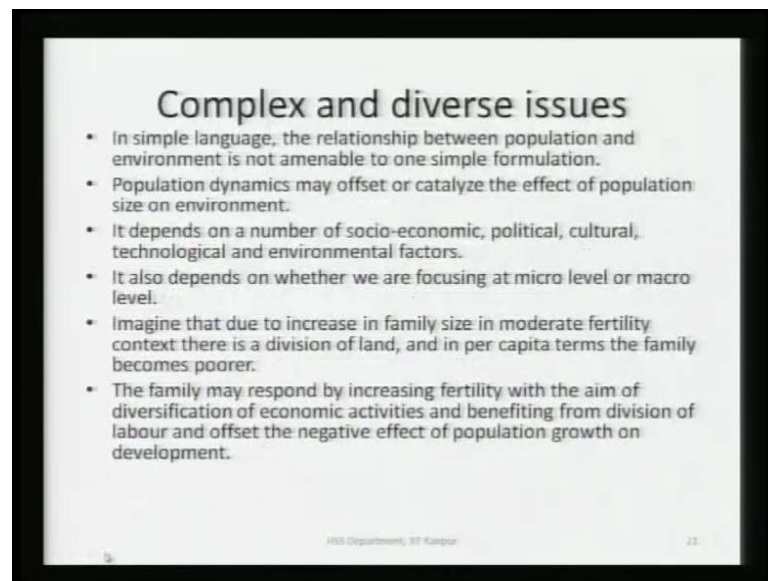
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To quote in particular over time non-linearities to scale may appear. Quantitative increases can generate qualitative changes; thresholds separating, for example, tolerable levels of pollution from levels that generate unacceptable risk, for human health may be

crossed. Up to a certain level dements to a removable resource, such as a forest eco system may be corrected by a spontaneous and relatively rapid biological process. Beyond that level, the damage may be irreparable or the natural recovery of the human engineer, repair of the eco **eco** system in question may require a very long time or until exorbitant cause.

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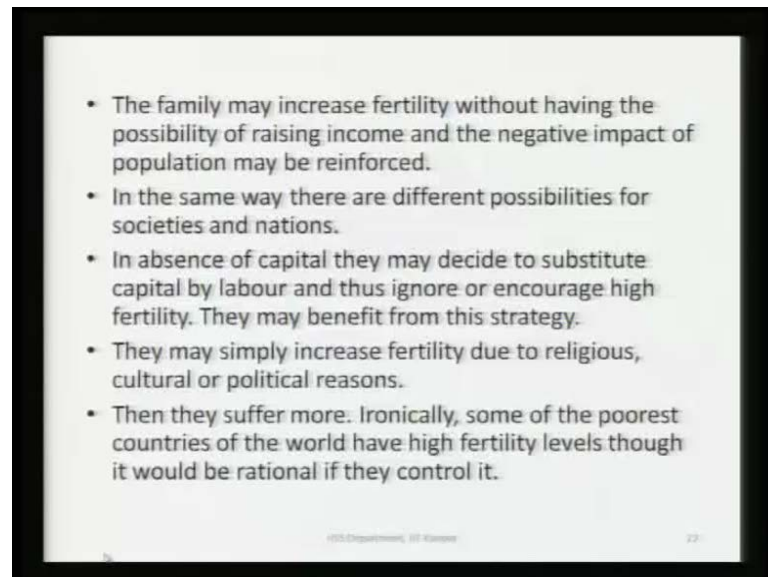
So, there are complex and diverse issues, in simple language the relationship between population and environment is not amenable to one simple formulation. Population dynamics may offset or catalyze the effect of population size on environment; it depends on number of socioeconomic, political, cultural, technological and environmental factors. It also depends on whether; we are focusing at micro level or macro level.

So, the environmental impact of population growth has to be seen separately at individual level, household level, village level, community level, state level or regional level and the national and international level, the effects are not same. Imagine that due to increase in family size, just to give an example of how a people take different types of actions, in different situation, imagine that due to increase in family size, in moderate fertility context, moderate fertility contexts, family size increases due to reduction in mortality.

There is a division of land and in per capita term the family becomes poorer. What does the family do, the family may respond by increasing fertility, increasing fertility the

cause are becoming poor. But the family may respond by increasing fertility, with the aim of diversification of economic activities, and benefiting from division of labour, and offset the negative effect of population growth on development, and leading further to environmental problems or to poverty or degradation or division of land.

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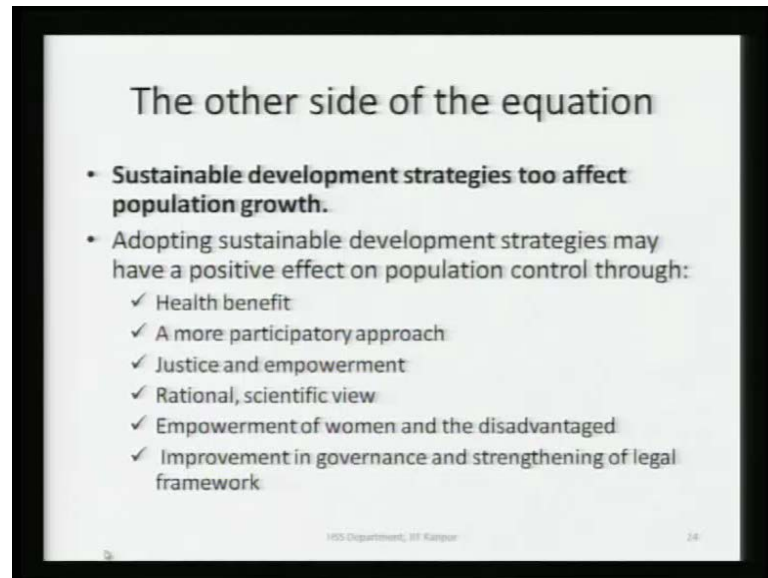
The family may increase fertility, without having the possibility of rising income, and the negative impact of population may be reinforced, in the same way there are different possibilities for societies and nations, in absence of capital they may decide. So, no wonder, you can certainly find some countries, where population growth rate is high, the process of economic development, industrialization, rising aspirations, modernization are highly destructive of environmental quality.

And is still, those countries are maintaining the policy of increasing population growth or not bothering about population growth or not having policies to reduce their growth rate of population or fertility. In absence of capital they may decide, families communities, as well as nations may decide to substitute capital by labour; and thus ignore or encourage high fertility.

They may benefit from the strategy in the short run, and for them **those who have** those who have been poor and deprived of modern day facilities, the short run is more important than long run. They may simply increase fertility, due to religious, cultural, political or economic reasons, than they suffer more. Ironically some of the poorest

countries of the world have high fertility levels, though it would be rational, if they control it. The other side of the equation, one side is the impact of population growth on sustainable development.

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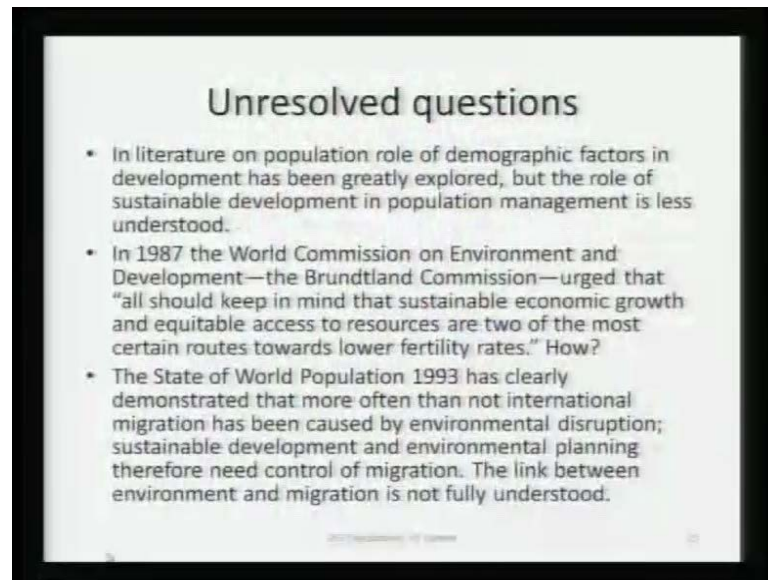
The other side of the equation is impact of sustainable development on population growth, in introductory course on population, this is a also an important link; towards which it is important to draw students attention. That sustainable development strategies to affect population growth, what will be the advantages if we go for sustainable development, first health benefit, they if we go for sustainable development, the first benefit would be, in terms of health benefit.

Then it will make development more participative, you will use more participatory approach, sustainable development has to use a participatory approach and so, development processes become participatory. Sustainable development is to justice and empowerment, social justice, women's empowerment, empowerment of the (O).

By definitions sustainable development is that, which brings the (O), the marginal, the alienated to the main stream, it also develops a rational scientific view, and empowerment of women and disadvantage sections of society. Improvement in governance, you cannot have sustainable development, if there is no corresponding improvement in governance, and strengthening of legal frame work.

On the one hand, it is important to focus on population growth processes, so that they can be altered to have sustainable development; and on the other hand, if you have sustainable development that will also be beneficial to implementation of population policy, this is what it means to say that we must look at this link from both the sides.

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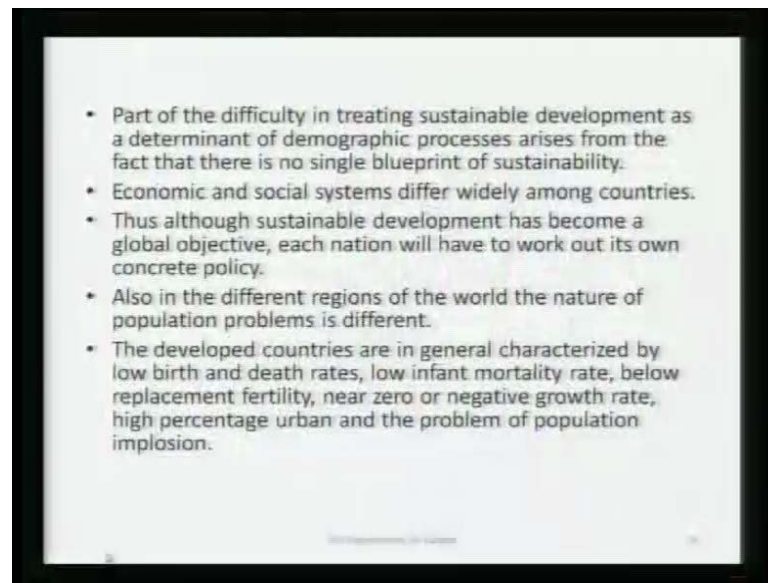


However, there are some unresolved questions, in literature on population role of demographic factors in development has been greatly explored. But the role of sustainable development in population management is less understood, may be students like you, when you take up your M.Phil and Ph.D research may take up some of these connections.

In 1987, the world commission on environment and development the Brundtland commission has that, all should keep in mind, that sustainable economic growth and equitable access to resources are two of the most certain routes, towards lower fertility rates, how think, how this is the case. The state of world population in 1993, has clearly demonstrated, that more often than not, international migration has been caused by environmental disruption.

Sustainable development and environment planning therefore, need control of migration; the link between environment and migration is not fully (O), migration itself is more problematic than fertility and mortality. And this link between migration and environment is the least analyzed to component of the population dynamics.

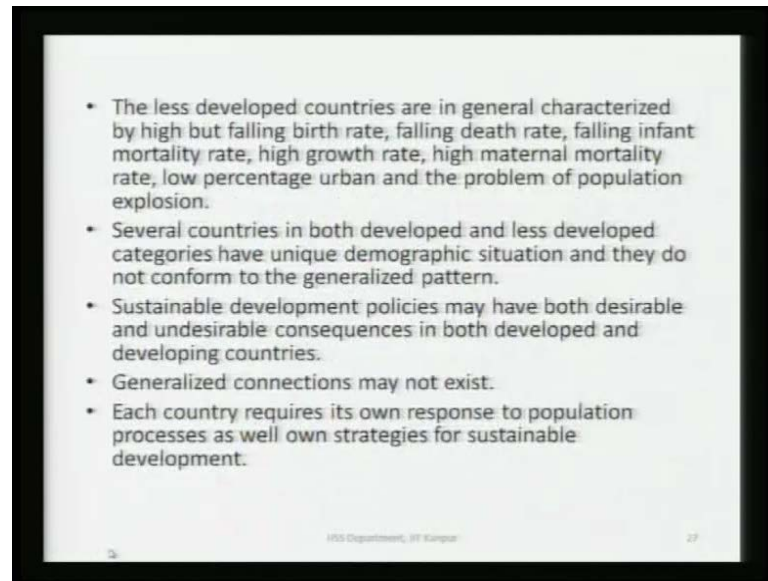
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Part of the difficulty in treating sustainable development, as we **determined** determinant of demographic processes arises, from the fact that there is no single blue print of sustainability. Economic and social system differ widely among countries, thus all those sustainable development has become a global objective, each nation will have to work out its own concrete policy. Also in the different regions of the world, the nature of population problems is different.

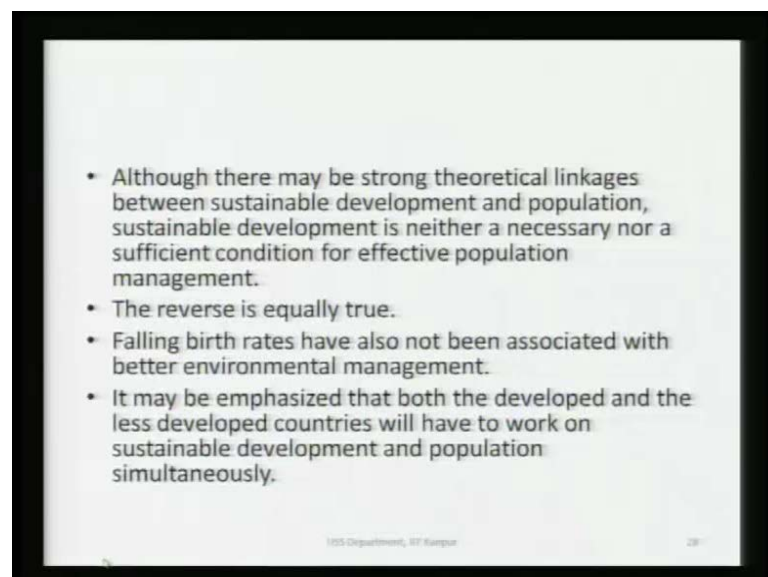
The developed countries are in general characterized by low birth rate, low death rate, low infant mortality rate, below replacement fertility, near zero or negative growth rate, high percentage urban, and the problem of population enclosure. Then large developed countries have, just opposite of that.

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Several countries in both developed and less developed countries have unique demographic situation, and they do not conform to the generalize pattern, which in mentioned just now. Sustainable development policies may have both desirable and undesirable consequences, in both developed and developing countries. Impact on economic growth is just one, there may be other impacts also, we have to explore what those impacts can be, generalize connections may not exists. And each country requires its own response to population processes, as well as known strategies for sustainable development.

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All though there may be strong theoretical link is between sustainable development and population; sustainable development is neither necessary nor a sufficient condition for effective population management. And the reverse is equally true, you can have sustainable development, with low as well as high birth rate; falling birth rates have also not been associated with better environmental management.

So, there are many countries, where birth rates are falling, but that does not translate so well into climate policies or green house gas emissions, which is today becoming more a factor of the nature of technology that we used for productive process. It may be emphasizing that both that developed and the less developed countries, will have to work on sustainable development and population simultaneously, forgetting their differences.

And in these respect environmental networks and civil society actors, and media, and interaction, and that networks of intellectuals, social scientists, political scientists will have to play an important role. If we leave the environmental issues only to national governments, and in traditional political frame works, we cannot solve the global problem of environment. And the difference is a perception between developed and developing countries will remain. So some the environment problem is a new problem, and this also requires that we think in new ways to solve this problem, at the global and micro level; anything? Thank you.